

REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST UPON THE LIVESTOCK STATISTICS
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR THE YEAR 1926.

I. SHEEP AND WOOL.

a. Number. The Sheep flocks on December 31st 1926 numbered 7,283,945 (6,810,495), increase 473,450. These were classified as follows - Ewes 3,605,455 (3,388,828), increase 216,627; Wethers 2,018,941 (1,762,295), increase 256,646; Rams 93,205 (90,595), increase 2,610; Under 1 year old 1,566,344 (1,568,777), decrease 2,433.

b. Breeds of Sheep. 6,604,971 (6,093,303) sheep or 90.7 (89.5) per cent of the flocks were returned as Pure bred Merino and 404,476 (407,417) or 5.6 (6.0) per cent as Merino Comebacks, other pure breeds 24,739 (26,737) or 0.3 (0.4) per cent and the balance of 249,759 (283,038) or 3.4 (4.1) per cent were returned as Crossbreds.

c. Lambing, 1926. During the year 1926, 2,799,199 (2,700,379) Ewes were mated and 1,679,336 (1,740,620) Lambs marked equal to a percentage of 59.99 compared with 64.46 for the previous year.

d. Winter Lambing, 1927. 2,989,517 Ewes were reported as either mated or intended to be mated for the Winter Lambing of 1927. The percentage results will be available in about a month.

e. Wool-Clip. 7,271,698 (6,915,238) sheep and lambs were shorn, the total clip, including locks, bellies, pieces &c. being 63,078,242 (60,380,584) lbs. exceeding the record of the previous year by 2,697,658 lbs. The average weight of fleece for sheep and lambs combined was 8.67 (8.73) lbs. and for sheep only 10.23 (10.42) lbs.

f. Total Wool Production. Subject to slight revision of fellmongered wool, it is estimated that the grand total wool production, including wool fellmongered and wool on local skins exported was 72,093,317 (69,007,266) lbs., Increase 3,086,051 lbs., Value £4,451,762 (£4,295,702), Increase £156,000.

II. CATTLE. All kinds 340,007 (373,597), decrease 33,590. The mortality records show a loss of no less than 22,000 head of cattle in the far northern areas beyond Counties. Dairying Cattle 127,292 (136,273) decrease 8,981. Cows in Milk 86,172 (90,107), Dry 32,289 (37,563), Heifers Springing 8,831 (8,603). In addition there were 12,719 (14,249) other Heifers 1 year and over which are not included in the Dairying total but which are possible additions to the Dairying Herds.

III. HORSES. 234,352 (244,111), decrease 9,759. The mortality losses on the far northern stations are given as 4,100.

IV. PIGS. 79,108 (90,794), decrease 11,686. Ages - 60,765 (70,930) under 1 year and 18,343 (19,864) 1 year and over.

V. ALL OTHER STOCK. Goats - Angora 1,495, other 4,351, Total 5,846. Camels 4,093. Mules 916. Donkeys 4,272. Ostriches 334.

VI. INTERSTATE MOVEMENT BY LAND OF STOCK. The State gained 305,326 Sheep and 52,908 head of Cattle and lost 1,003 Horses by transit of Stock by land from and to the other States. 1,200 Horses were also shipped to other States by sea.

VII. SLAUGHTERING. Sheep and Lambs 1,089,615 (1,028,533), increase 61,082, for Export 6,974 (70,866), Cattle 143,951 (157,210), decrease 13,259, Pigs 121,939 (111,981), increase 9,958.

VIII. TOP-DRESSED PASTURE LANDS. There was an increase during the year of 35,808 acres in the area top-dressed and of 1,701 tons in the manure used. The respective totals were 159,465 (123,657) acres, Manure used 9,081 (7,380) tons.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

LIVESTOCK AS AT DECEMBER 31ST 1926 IN COMPARISON WITH DECEMBER 31ST, 1925.

Division	SHEEP			PIGS		
	1925 No.	1926 No.	Increase No.	1925 No.	1926 No.	Increase No.
Central	1,272,721	1,342,124	69,403	41,309	38,971	- 2,338
Lower North	1,166,344	1,182,182	15,838	15,219	12,176	- 3,043
Upper North	907,623	1,050,408	142,785	5,618	4,940	- 678
South Eastern	1,141,786	1,210,889	69,103	10,021	8,027	- 1,994
Western	806,924	861,470	54,546	6,262	5,143	- 1,119
Murray Mallee	435,815	480,730	44,915	12,154	9,591	- 2,563
Total Counties	5,731,213	6,127,803	396,590	90,583	78,848	- 11,735
Outside Counties	1,079,282	1,156,142	76,860	211	260	49
Total State	6,810,495	7,283,945	473,450	90,794	79,108	- 11,686

Division	CATTLE			HORSES		
	1925 No.	1926 No.	Increase No.	1925 No.	1926 No.	Increase No.
Central	95,260	87,297	- 7,963	74,613	70,888	- 3,725
Lower North	36,242	33,315	- 2,927	54,740	51,855	- 2,885
Upper North	29,752	26,017	- 3,735	20,444	19,656	- 788
South Eastern	38,211	35,655	- 2,556	15,208	14,646	- 562
Western	12,520	11,267	- 1,253	26,817	26,733	- 84
Murray Mallee	26,333	24,799	- 1,534	30,842	33,022	2,180
Total Counties	238,318	218,350	- 19,968	222,664	216,800	- 5,864
Outside Counties	135,279	121,657	- 13,622	21,447	17,552	- 3,895
Total State	373,597	340,007	- 33,590	244,111	234,352	- 9,759

Division	WOOL-CLIP			AVERAGE WEIGHT FLEECE		
	1925-6 lbs.	1926-7 lbs.	Increase lbs.	1925-6 lbs.	1926-7 lbs.	Increase lbs.
Central	10,731,810	11,368,309	636,499	8.52	8.45	- .07
Lower North	10,611,319	10,696,895	85,576	9.07	8.97	- .10
Upper North	8,951,532	9,760,029	808,497	9.38	9.39	.01
South Eastern	8,628,054	9,109,891	481,837	7.60	7.59	- .01
Western	6,491,453	6,861,810	370,357	7.86	7.94	.08
Murray Mallee	3,755,088	4,263,897	508,809	9.25	9.04	- .21
Total Counties	49,169,256	52,000,831	2,891,575	8.55	8.52	- .03
Outside Counties	11,211,328	11,017,411	- 193,917	9.64	9.51	- .13
Total State	60,380,584	63,078,242	2,697,658	8.73	8.67	- .06

Grand Total Wool Production (Clip, Fellmongered and on skins imported) subject to slight revision, 1925-26 69,007,286 lbs, 1926-27 72,093,317 lbs, Increase 3,086,051 lbs.

† Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

Statistical Office,
Adelaide,

3rd August, 1927.

W. L. JOHNSTON,

Government Statist.